



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

CN 402, TRENTON, N.J. 08625

Berry's Creek Technical Advisory Group Meeting Minutes October 3, 1985

The eighth meeting of the TAG took place at the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission Environment Center in Lynhurst. The following people were in attendance: Dick Lee, Bob Will, Paul Galluzzi, Rich Dime, Joe Maher, George Harvell, Fred Ziegler, John Ciancia, Art Slesinger, and Larry Schmidt. Hank Garie was scheduled to attend but had to cancel at the last minute in order to substitute for Tom Burke at meetings in Trenton.

The minutes of the July 31 meeting of TAG were approved with one minor addition. In the third paragraph on page one, the minutes should reflect that Mr. Hank Garie had been invited to the Vicksburg meeting but could not attend.

The minutes of the meeting on August 28 and 29 were also approved with one small addition. In the fourth paragraph of page one, Joe Maher felt that the minutes should reflect his statement that --"the basic information in Task I was present and that he also recommended Volumes I & III should be combined".

The first item in the agenda was a discussion of George Harvell's letter of September 9 regarding the frequency and duration of TAG meetings. George reiterated the contents of his letter by suggesting that TAG meetings could be more productive if they were extended to a full eight hour day or that TAG set up a regular monthly meeting date. Art Slesinger noted that the inefficiency of the group was the problem rather than the lack of time to deliberate. He suggested that subcommittees be formed to work concurrently with the TAG. Larry Schmidt noted that if everyone was fully prepared at the meetings, the lack of time would not be a major issue. George Harvell indicated that he preferred an afternoon meeting followed by a full day meeting the next day. Art Slesinger suggested that TAG meetings could be better structured if an agenda was sent out at least one week in advance. Larry Schmidt agreed to this. Finally, the discussion ended with an agreement that TAG meetings would be held in Trenton commencing at 9:00AM and held to six hours in length. The meetings will be held at 4-6 week intervals with specific expectations and work assignments laid out well in advance of the meeting. The group also agreed to pursue the subcommittee approach with one subcommittee for research and a second subcommittee for the RI/FS work.



Larry Schmidt initiated a discussion on his draft response to Jorge Berkowitz's directive memo. The TAG members approved the response with minor corrections and updates. It was agreed that the response memo would be dated September 26 and that further updates would be presented verbally at the SAC meeting scheduled for October 15.

The TAG then turned to the status of the research proposal of Dr. Simson and Dr. Good. It was confirmed that Hank Garie has scheduled a meeting for October 8 to discuss the pre-proposals and request the submission of a full proposal. Paul Galluzzi noted that he will be meeting with Dr. Simson on October 4 in the field. At that time Paul will prepare Dr. Simson for the October 8 meeting. In discussion of the participation of Simson and Good, it was brought to the attention of TAG that Dr. Simson is in the process of relocating from Rider College to William Paterson College. In his new position as department chairman, it has yet to be determined if he is still interested and has the time to do the research.

The TAG proceeded with a discussion of the lack of progress in completing the scoping and contracting for the research component. TAG members formed a research subcommittee consisting of Hank Garie, Rich Dime, Dick Lee, Art Slesinger, and Paul Galluzzi as the chairman. The discussion then turned to the TAG meeting of August 29 at which time the need for additional help for the Office of Science and Research was considered. After a discussion the TAG members agreed to place before SAC for its decision-making, several options on the research support staff. The first option would be for the DEP to hire a research coordinator to assist Hank Garie until the prime contractor comes on board. The second option would be to use the TAG subcommittee to coordinate the development of research proposals and assign Joe Maher the responsibility for research contract management. The third option was to continue with the status quo, namely the Office of Science and Research maintaining the lead in matters of research contract development.

The status of Dr. Bartha was then discussed. Rich Dime indicated that Hank Garie had contacted Dr. Bartha as a follow-up to Dr. Bartha's letter of April. Dr. Dime left the meeting to call Hank Garie to get an update on the particulars of Dr. Bartha. Rich Dime reported back that Dr. Bartha is still interested in participating in the project. Several TAG members suggested that Dr. Bartha's services could be utilized working with the research subcommittee. This would require engaging Dr. Bartha as a special consultant pending approval by SAC.

The next agenda item involved the status of the routine monitoring proposal. Joe Maher reported that the Division of Water Resources has not submitted a formal monitoring proposal. Rather, it has responded to Joe by raising several questions. It was also reported that the Office of Science and Research is

working on a similar monitoring plan that has not been formalized in writing as of this date. The HMDC proposal of Paul Galluzzi was discussed both in terms of the lab's capability and its status of having "interim certification" by the DEP. After further discussion, the TAG agreed to recommend acceptance of the HMDC routine monitoring proposal contingent upon DEP lab certification. The initial monitoring plan will be sufficient to get started and the program could be subjected to further refinements during subsequent rounds of sampling. TAG also agreed that the contract mechanism to engage HMDC should be decided by SAC. The two options are for HMDC to contract directly with the industries or for HMDC to contract through the DEP. Paul Galluzzi noted that his management has indicated that a 20% administrative cost factor would have to be added to the proposal if the contract went through the DEP.

The TAG then discussed a mechanism for splitting samples for the purpose of independent analysis by the Velsicol lab. Bob Will and several other TAG members objected to two sets of monitoring data with only one set on the "public record". It was finally decided that any split samples provided to Velsicol will also be provided to an independent New Jersey approved contract lab. Velsicol will notify Joe Maher in writing as to which samples are to be split. The cost of the independent lab analysis will be borne by Velsicol and Morton Thiokol. This recommended procedure will also be brought to SAC for final decision-making.

Joe Maher distributed a DEP internal memo on laboratories currently recognized to do analytical work. He indicated that the list will be included as guidance in the RFP.

The next agenda item involved the two proposals submitted by the Waterways Experiment Station (WES). The proposals included work on the environmental variables on bioavailability of mercury and mercury methylation. Dr. Dick Lee started the discussion with the statement that he proposed to have WES sub-contract with Dr. Patrick of LSU to do the work involving mercury methylation. Only \$5,000 extra will be added to the LSU cost to cover WES contract management. Dr. Lee indicated that Dr. Patrick has developed the test apparatus and adapted it for use on the type of research which is applicable in this instance. The Corps has the same analytical capability as LSU but its equipment in Vicksburg is currently committed to WES projects. He stated that a WES/LSU partnership is desirable since the two research proposals could be fully integrated.

The TAG members and Dr. Lee entered into a lengthy discussion on the technical aspects of the WES proposals. The discussion also carried over to the issue of the cost of research relative to the existing budget of \$1.2 million in the Cooperative Agreement. TAG members agreed that this issue should be raised to SAC. However it was recognized there could be immediate problems in getting the research started if the discussions on revising the budget upward

becomes lengthy. At the conclusion of the discussion there was no formal vote of the acceptance of WES proposals. Rather, the Subcommittee on Research will further discuss the research proposal in a telephone conversation with Dr. Lee on October 8. The Subcommittee's final recommendations will then be available to the Executive Secretary for consideration by the full TAG.

The last agenda item involved the Task I revised draft documents. Since the reports were only in the TAG members hands for 2-3 days prior to the meeting, it was agreed that the review time would be extended until October 14 at which time the Executive Secretary would poll the members by phone prior to the next SAC meeting.

The members agreed that the next regular scheduled TAG meeting would be on November 19 commencing at 9:00AM in Trenton.